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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,444	09/19/2003	Tak Kui Wang	10030769-1	8318

7590 12/01/2004
AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Legal Department, DL429
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 7599
Loveland, CO 80537-0599

EXAMINER

THOMPSON, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2873

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,444

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy J Thompson

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 33-63 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-17, 20-32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 0203 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/19/2003
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 18, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,187,211).

Regarding claim 1, 18, Smith et al. discloses forming a stack comprising at least two phase shifting layers(fig 5e, 506, 510) separated by an etch stop layer(fig 5e, 504,508), above a first surface of a substrate the transparent substrate being transmissive to a light wavelength selected from infrared to ultraviolet (col 1, lines 65-67 and col 4, lines 59-65), and patterning the stack to form layers of a diffractive optical element(col 2, lines 7-22).

Regarding claim 2, 19 Smith et al. discloses the transparent substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of quartz, Pyrex, and sapphire(col 1, lines 65-67 and col 4, lines 59-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 2873

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,187,211) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Rolfson(U.S. Patent No. 6,599,666).

Regarding claim 3, Smith et al. discloses depositing a first phase shifting layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of amorphous silicon and silicon nitride (fig 5a, 502); growing an etch stop layer on the first phase shifting layer(fig 5b 504), and depositing a second phase shifting layer comprising the material on the etch stop layer(fig 5c, 506). Smith et al. does not disclose the stop etch layer is made from silicon dioxide. However, Rolfson discloses a stop etch layer is made from silicon dioxide(claim 20). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to form the stop etch layer is made from silicon dioxide as shown by Rolfson, in the fabrication method of Smith et al., since as disclosed by Rolfson silicon dioxide is commonly used as a stop etch agent when fabricating lenses.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-17, 20-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2873

Claims 33-63 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art taken either singularity or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claim, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in independent claims 33, 43, 51, 58, with the allowable feature being; a planarization layer(claim 33, 43, 51); a bonding ring(claim 58). Therefore claims 33-63 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Thompson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2342. If the examiner can not be reached his supervisor, Georgia Epps, can be reached on (571) 272-2328.



TIMOTHY THOMPSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER